(b) Rajasthan ranks 30th in literacy as compared to other States/UT's at the time of 1991 census.

(c) Universalisation of elementary education, non-formal education for school drop outs and the National Literacy Mission which aims at imparting functional literacy to 80.00 million adult illiterates in the 15—35 age group by 1995 form part of a larger strategy for eradication of illiteracy in the country. To this effect schemes such as 'Operation Blackboard' Establishment of District Institutes of Education and Training, Strengthening of non-formal education centres and Total Literacy Campaigns in 240 districts have been launched.

(d) State-wise allocations are not made in the central sector. In the State sector an outlay of Rs. 960.41 crores was approved for the education sector in Rajasthan during the 8th Plan.

Improvement in Secondary Education

180. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA :
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a task force for improving the quality of secondary education in the country ;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ;

(c) whether the views of the State Governments have been taken into account ; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) and (b) The Programme of Action, 1992 contains a suggestion to set up a Task Force to study the existing position and status of the Boards of School Education and to draw up a Scheme to transform the Boards into effective instruments for bringing about qualitative improvement of secondary education. There is no proposal for any other Task Force.

(c) and (d) The Programme of Action, 1992 has been unanimously approved by the Central Advisory Board on Education in which the Education Ministers of the State Governments are members.

181. [*Transferred to 14th Dec.* 1993]

Grant to Central Universities

182. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what criteria have been fixed by Government to provide maintenance grant to the Central Universities ; and

(b) what would be the amount of grant in this category of Universities for research and other developmental programmes ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) There are ten Central Universities, all of them except IGNOU are funded by UGC. IGNOU receives grants directly from Govt. of India.

As per the information provided by UGC the grant to Central Universities is disbursed on the basis of the availability of funds and the recommendation of their Finance Committees. The actual expenditure is kept in view and normal increments are allowed.

IGNOU have informed that the maintenance grant for the year 1991-92 for the university was determined on the basis of the net deficit in non-plan Expenditure for that year. For the 8th Plan period Leginning with 1992-93, the Maintenance Grant has been fixed on the basis of the grants paid in 1991-92 with some annual incremental allocation.